GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:258
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2016
Pollution Level
Kaushik Shri Ramesh Chander;Raj Smt. Krishna

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the level of air pollution in metropolitan cities of the country including Delhi has increased during each of the last three years and if so, the percentage of rise in the pollution level during the said period, city-wise;
(b) whether the Government/Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has assessed the impact of plying of odd-even numbered vehicles, on alternative days implemented in the NCT of Delhi, if so, the details and findings thereof; and
(c) whether there is any proposal to replicate the said scheme in other metropolitan cities, if so, the details thereof along with the other measures taken to ensure zero tolerance and make the cities pollution free along with research undertaken in the field of air pollution mitigation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a)to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 258 due for reply on 15.03.2016 regarding "Pollution Level" by SHRI RAMESH CHANDER KAUSHIK AND SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ, Hon"ble Member of Parliament

(a) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) are monitoring ambient air quality across the country under National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP). Three air pollutants viz., Sulphur Dioxide (SO2), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2) and Particulate Matter size equal to or less than 10 micron (PM10), are monitored at all the 612 operating monitoring stations located in 254 cities/towns in 29 states and 5 union territories across the country. Out of the 46 million plus cities, ambient air quality data collected during 2015 available for 41 cities indicate that the values of SO2 are within the NAAQS of 50 Âµg/m3 (annual standard). The value of NO2 in 9 cities (namely Delhi, Faridabad, Howrah, Kalyan Dombovali, Kolkata, Pimpri-Chinchwad, Pune, Navi Mumbai and Thane) exceeded the NAAQS of 40 Âµg/m3 (annual standard); while the value of PM10, in 38 cities do not comply with the NAAQS of 60 Âµg/m3 (annual standard). The PM10 value in 3 cities (namely Chennai, Coimbatore and Vishakhapatnam) complies with the National Standard of 60 Âµg/m3 (annual standard).

The ambient air quality data along with percentage of rise/fall in the pollution level of the million plus cities including Delhi is annexed.

(b) Yes, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has assessed the impact of plying of odd-even numbered vehicles during odd-even scheme launched by Delhi Government from 1st to 15th January, 2016 with the objective of reducing air pollution in Delhi. The assessment of CPCB has revealed no clear trend and wide fluctuations observed in the concentrations. It is evident that the meteorology and emissions from other polluting sources have been major factors impacting air quality of Delhi during the period. Higher wind speeds and mixing height in general result in better dispersion and lower pollution levels. Overall, it can be stated that while some reduction in air pollution is likely to happen due to odd-even scheme, a single factor or action cannot substantially reduce air pollution levels in Delhi. Therefore, a comprehensive set of actions following an integrated approach is required to make substantial improvement in air quality.

(c) Decision on implementation of odd-even scheme is within the purview of State/UT Governments.
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